GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4200
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
DAMAGE TO ENVIRONMENT
Singh Shri Murarilal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal mines of South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Chhattisgarffe causing damage to the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the plans of the Government regarding conservation of forests?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL & MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): During mining`operations, specially for opencast mining, degradation of land and environmental pollution, to some extent, occur. South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), as a policy matter, is taking steps regularly to reclaim and restore the mined out land and also takes all possible mitigation measures to make its working areas and surroundings clean and green. The provisions of environmental clearance are strictly complied with and monitoring of pollutants is a continuous process.

Before starting mining operations, Government ensures that multi-pronged environment friendly actions such as adoption of new technology by introducing Surface Miner, Continuous Miner, Longwall & Highwall mining are adopted. Also, reduction /abatement of fugitive emissions, industrial effluent, handling / disposal of hazardous wastes, remedial measures for land degradation have been adopted as day-to-day activity in the mines.

(c): The coal companies comply with all the provisions of the Forests (Conservation) Act framed by Ministry of Environment and Forests.